

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 L-03 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8569

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL ANTWERP

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 3868

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, NL, UR

SUBJ: NO SOVIET CONSULATE IN ROTTERDAM

REF: THE HAGUE 3540

1. IN RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS SUPPORTIVE OF THE PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOVIET CONSULATE IN ROTTERDAM (REFTEL), FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL REJECTED IDEA, POINTING OUT THERE WAS "NO URGENT REASON FOR SUCH A SEPARATE CONSULATE". SOVIET UNION HAD ONLY RECENTLY INCREASED SIZE OF ITS STAFF IN THE HAGUE, PARTLY IN CONNECTION WITH ROTTERDAM PORT ACTIVITIES, EMBASSY STAFF WAS LARGE ENOUGH TO HANDLE CONSULAR AND SHIPPING SERVICES, AND DISTANCE BETWEEN THE HAGUE AND ROTTERDAM WAS SO SMALL THAT A SEPARATE CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENT WAS NOT NEEDED. VAN DER STOEL ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SOVIET TRADE REPRESENTATION INCLUDED AN OFFICIAL OF THE SOVIET ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR MERCHANT NAVY.

2. ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF DUTCH PEOPLE ALSO HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, ACCORDING TO FONMIN. BOTH GON AND THE TWO

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HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE DANGERS OF

"AGGRESSIVE PENETRATION" OF EAST EUROPEAN MERCHANT FLEETS INTO WESTERN SHIPPING TRADE AND, SHOULD THE SOVIET REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A CONSULATE IN ROTTERDAM BE MET, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD FAIL TO SHOW THAT IT WAS SUFFICIENTLY AWARE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

3. VAN DER STOEL'S STATEMENT ALSO POINTS OUT THAT THE ADMISSION OF SOVIET CITIZENS ONLY MADE SENSE WHEN IT COULD BE ASSUMED THAT GENERAL DUTCH INTERESTS OUTWEIGHTED OBJECTIONS TO STRENGTHENING THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN HOLLAND. THE ADMISSION OF SOVIET CITIZENS IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY WOULD BE MEASURED AGAINST WHETHER DUTCH ECONOMIC INTERESTS WERE "CONVINCINGLY SERVED", ACTIVITIES COULD NOT BE PERFORMED BY A DUTCHMAN, AND ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY. DEVIATION FROM GON'S LONG STANDING POLICY WAS "NOT JUSTIFIED IN ANY WAY".
GOULD

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